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[45] Date of Patent:

Jun. 9, 1998

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[54] DNA ENCODING A CYTOKINE THAT INDUCES APOPTOSIS

[75] Inventors: Steven R. Wiley; Raymond G.

Goodwin, both of Seattle, Wash.

[73] Assignee: Immunex Corporation, Seattle, Wash.

[21] Appl. No.: 670,354

[22] Filed: Jun. 25, 1996

Related U.S. Application Data

[63]	(Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 548,368, Nov.	1, 1995,
	abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of	Ser. No.
	496,632, Jun. 29, 1995, abandoned.	

[51] Int. CL⁶ C12N 15/19; C07K 14/525

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935/11, 22, 66

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[57] ABSTRACT

A novel cytokine designated TRAIL induces apoptosis of certain target cells, including cancer cells and virally infected cells. Isolated DNA sequences encoding TRAIL are disclosed, along with expression vectors and transformed host cells useful in producing TRAIL polypeptides. Antibodies that specifically bind TRAIL are provided as well.

24 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets